

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /031 W
----- 092662

O R 261759Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9046

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 03819

EXDIS

FOR S/S PASS TO SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, EEC, UK, GW

SUBJECT: BRITISH VIEWS ON CALLAGHAN VISIT TO BONN
AND RELATED ISSUES

1. SUMMARY: CALLAGHAN FOUND GERMANS BROADLY SYMPATHETIC
TO HMG'S DESIRE TO RENEGOTIATE TERMS OF EC MEMBERSHIP,
BUT SADDENED BY HMG'S LACK OF ENTHUSIASM FOR POLITICAL
AND ECONOMIC UNION. CALLAGHAN PLANS TO DISCUSS WITH
SECRETARY KISSINGER MARCH 28 EC AIDE MEMOIRE TO ARABS
(WHICH HE HAS NOT YET APPROVED), AND ALSO SUGGESTION
FOR CELEBRATING TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF NATO.
END SUMMARY

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2. ECONMIN CALLED ON OLIVER WRIGHT, FCO DEPUTY UNDER

SECRETARY IN CHARGE OF ECONOMIC AND EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AFFAIRS, MARCH 26 FOR BRIEFING ON CALLAGHAN VISIT TO BONN MARCH 21-22 AND GENERAL DISCUSSION OF RELATED ISSUES. HIGHLIGHTS FOLLOW:

3. RENEGOTIATION - CALLAGHAN TOLD GERMANS ESSENTIALLY WHAT HE HAD ALREADY TOLD SONNENFELDT AND HARTMAN IN LONDON ON MARCH 15. UK IS SEEKING "FAIR BALANCE OF ADVANTAGE" IN EC, AND HOPES TO OBTAIN IT WITHIN EXISTING FRAMEWORK. AMENDMENTS TO TREATY OF ACCESSION WOULD BE SOUGHT ONLY AS LAST RESORT. AT EC COUNCIL OF MINISTERS APRIL 1-2, CALLAGHAN WILL LAY OUT BROAD AREAS IN WHICH UK WANTS CHANGES (I.E. BUDGETARY CONTRIBUTIONS, CAP, ACCESS TO MARKETS), AND WILL ASK EC COLLEAGUES IN WHICH FORUMS THEY WANT VARIOUS "RENEGOTIATIONS" TO TAKE PLACE. DETAILED BRITISH POSITION PAPERS SHOULD BE READY BY END OF APRIL. GERMANS LISTENED WITH SYMPATHY AND RAISED NO FUNDAMENTAL OBJECTIONS.

4. SPEAKING PERSONALLY, WRIGHT LIKENED RENEGOTIATION EXERCISE TO GRAND NATIONAL. IT WAS IMPORTANT TO TAKE THE HURDLES ONE AT A TIME. IF YOU THOUGHT ABOUT THE SECOND HURDLE AHEAD, YOU MIGHT TRIP OVER ONE IMMEDIATELY IN FRONT OF YOU.

5. POLITICAL COOPERATION - HERE AGAIN CALLAGHAN TOLD GERMANS WHAT HE HAD ALREADY TOLD SONNENFELDT AND HARTMAN. UK IS KEEN TO SEEK COMMON EC SOLUTIONS TO PROBLEMS, BUT BELIEVES THAT TIMETABLES FOR POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC UNION ARE OVERLY AMBITIOUS. THIS "SADDENED" THE GERMANS. THEY WANT A FOCUS FOR IDEALISM, ESPECIALLY THE IDEALISM OF GERMAN YOUTH, AND REGARD EUROPEANISM AS THE "SAFEST" FOCUS.

6. WRIGHT OBSERVED THAT ALTHOUGH GERMANS MIGHT BE SADDENED OVER UK ATTITUDES ON POLITICAL UNION, THEY WERE IN BROAD SYMPATHY WITH UK DESIRES ON RENEGOTIATION, WHEREAS FRENCH GENERALLY AGREED WITH UK ABOUT POLITICAL UNION BUT WOULD BE VERY TOUGH ON RENEGOTIATION.

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7. EC AGRICULTURAL MINISTERS - DIGRESSING FOR A MOMENT, WRIGHT SAID HE THOUGHT MEETING OF EC AGRICULTURAL MINISTERS, MARCH 21-23, HAD GONE WELL FOR TWO REASONS. / IT HAD RESULTED IN NO INCREASE IN DOMESTIC PRICES FOR THE BRITISH HOUSEWIVES, AND THIS WAS OF OVERRIDING IMPORTANCE TO NEW LABOR GOVERNMENT. BUT EQUALLY SIGNIFICANT, IT HAD DEMONSTRATED THAT IT WAS INDEED

POSSIBLE TO UTILIZE THE EXISTING EC MACHINERY TO
OBTAIN YOUR OBJECTIVES. THIS BODED WELL FOR CALLAGHAN'S
PRAGMATIC APPROACH TO RENEGOTIATION.

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8. EC-ARAB DIALOGUE - CALLAGHAN TOLD GERMANS HE
WISHED TO DISCUSS EC AIDE MEMOIRE TO ARABS WITH
SECRETARY KISSINGER BEFORE GIVING IT HIS APPROVAL.
HE WANTS NO CROSSED WIRES WITH AMERICANS; NEITHER
IS HE WILLING TO GIVE THEM VETO OVER UK ACTIONS.

9. WRIGHT ASSURED ECONMIN THAT EC HAD NO INTENTION
OF INTERFERING WITH SECRETARY'S INITIATIVES FOR
MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT, BUT ADMITTED RUEFULLY THAT
SECRETARY DID NOT YET SEEM CONVINCED OF THIS. ARABS
MIGHT WANT TO INJECT POLITICS INTO DIALOGUE WITH EC,

BUT EC WOULD REFUSE. WRIGHT UNDERSTOOD US CONCERN ABOUT WHAT FRENCH MIGHT DO WHEN THEY ARE IN EC CHAIR DURING LATTER HALF OF 1974, BUT SAID OTHER EIGHT WOULD HAVE TO DEMONSTRATE THEY WERE NOT ABOUT TO LET FRENCH HAVE THEIR OWN WAY.

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10. NATO ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION - BOTH CALLAGHAN AND BRANDT AGREED IT WAS VERY IMPORTANT THAT NATO NOT PERMIT TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY TO PASS WITHOUT SOME COMMEMORATIVE CEREMONY, PERHAPS AT FOREIGN SECRETARY LEVEL. SCHEEL SAID HE WOULD RAISE SUBJECT WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER IN BONN, AND CALLAGHAN SAID HE WOULD DO SAME WHEN HE SAW SECRETARY IN LONDON.

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